

## **Parks and Wildlife employee immunity from liability**

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HB 2153 by Bomer/Dickson

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- DIGEST:** HB 2153 would have immunized the director, commissioners and employees of the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife (TDPW) from personal liability for damages arising from official conduct that was not intentional or malicious malfeasance.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "No sufficient justification exists for the carving out of a special niche in the liability laws of this state for personnel of the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Elton Bomer, author of HB 2153, said: "Frankly, I was taken by surprise by the governor's veto. I didn't have any prior notice or even a courtesy call." Rep. Bomer said that there already is an agency with this type of liability protection for its employees — the Motor Vehicle Commission. All state employees should be given broad liability protection, and granting TDPW employees protection was a good start, said Rep. Bomer.
- NOTES:** HB 2153 was analyzed in the April 29 *Daily Floor Report*.